

Prison Abolition

is the vision of eliminating imprisonment, policing, and surveillance while creating lasting alternatives to punishment. It can be hard to imagine what this would look like while we live under capitalism, but we know that to have democratic socialism and true liberation for all people, abolition must be achieved.



Abolition is not just a long-term goal but a practical framework for dismantling the PIC. In the present, we can end money bail, mandatory minimums, the death penalty, life sentencing, immigration detention, the school-to-prison pipeline, and decriminalize non-violent offenses. We must also begin to build capacity for the liberated future we believe in through transformative justice, community accountability, and other alternatives to carceralism.

Text inspired by: *Critical Resistance*

...it's the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC)

The PIC describes the interests of capitalists and government that use surveillance, policing, money bail, and imprisonment as solutions to economic, social, and political problems. It represents a massive multibillion-dollar industry that promotes the exponential expansion of prisons, jails, monitoring, immigration detention, and juvenile detention. Corporations are able to profit from this system by super-exploiting incarcerated workers, paying them pennies per hour while denying them any right to organize or collectively bargain. Politicians who take money from the prison lobby target people of color and poor folks to keep the cages full. The media perpetuates images that portray the oppressed as criminal or delinquent. These are all parts of the PIC, the very existence of which we know is antithetical to both socialism and democracy.

Another world is possible...

Join us.



We are the **Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)**. There are tens of thousands of us across the United States working towards a future without prisons and police. Join us or learn more:

dsausa.org/join

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What is Prison Abolition?

